

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 30, cancels 29 and 31, without prejudice or disclaimer, and retains claims 12-28. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 12-28 and 30.

35 U.S.C. §112 Rejections

Claim 31 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. As previously discussed, claim 31 was canceled. Therefore, the rejection of claim 31 is rendered moot.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

Claim 29 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,430,866 to Lawrence et al. ("Lawrence"). As previously indicated, claim 29 was canceled. Therefore, this rejection regarding claim 29 is rendered moot.

Further, claim 30 is rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim 29, so that claim 30 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 12-28 and 30 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 12-28 and 30 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of

fees, to the deposit account of Brundidge & Stanger, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-4888 (referencing attorney docket no. H-597-04).

Respectfully submitted,

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